

# OTS: 2 Samuel

## Introduction

We are on a journey to go over all 66 books of the Bible within 67 weeks. We have gone over 9 books. We opened up with the book of Genesis, followed by the book of Exodus, then Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy. All these books are under the LAW section of the Old Testament text. We then began the HISTORY section, which we opened with the book of Joshua, then Judges, then Ruth. Last week we looked at 1 Samuel.

This week we are taking a look at the second book of Samuel. Samuel is the last Judge and he is the first prophet and priest to anoint the first king in Israel. He brings to the nation of Israel a transition from the era of the Judges to the era of the Kings.

His arrival comes at a critical time where the word of the LORD was rare. That means there were no prophets who prophesied in the name of the LORD. Moreover, there was corruption in the temple, and the presiding high priest did not rebuke his sons' corrupt and promiscuous behavior.

Lets us look at the Title, Author and Date, and message of 2 Samuel.

## Title

The book is called 2 Samuel. The two books of Samuel were originally one book but around 300 BC, 70 scribes who were translating the Greek Septuagint from the Hebrew Old Testament, separated the book of Samuel into two books. They did this because the scrolls could not contain the whole book of Samuel.

## Author and Date

The author is unknown. Some people believe that Samuel wrote the two books of Samuel, however, just like the other books we have dealt with in the past weeks, there is no concrete evidence that Samuel wrote the books of Samuel. If you go further into the book, Samuel could not have written about his death (**1 Samuel 25:1**) and the events that happened many years after he had died.

It appears in **1 Samuel 10:25** and in **1 Chronicle 29:29** that Samuel once wrote a book. With this information, we can speculate that **1 & 2 Samuel** could contain the pieces of the writings of Samuel, Nathan, and Gad and we cannot fully credit Samuel as the main author of the book.

As for the dates, the book may have been written between 960 BC and 550 BC.

## **The message of 2 Samuel**

2 Samuel continues where 1 Samuel left off. Remember that 1 Samuel and 2 Samuel are one book. In **1 Samuel 31**, which is the last chapter, we witness the death of Saul and Jonathan in the battle against the Philistines. Saul gets hurt and orders his armor-bearer to kill him but the young man was afraid to do it. Saul fell upon his sword and died and his armor-bearer did the same and died.

We open up 2nd Samuel where David returns from killing the Amalekites and he is met by a man who identified himself as an Amalekite. The man claimed that he killed Saul the enemy of David and that he has brought the crown of Saul and his bracelet to David. The man thought he was bringing the good news to David, a miscalculation that costed his life. David could not find it joyful that Saul had died and the death of Jonathan made matters worse.

### **A Divided Israel**

This book shows that David did not become the king of Israel right away after Saul's death. He was anointed king by the men of Judah while the rest of Israel anointed Ishbosheth the son of Saul to be their king. The lead influencer in Israel was a man named Abner. He was captain of the armies of Saul. He is the one that promoted Ishbosheth and got Israel to cleave to him. David reigned seven years in Hebron and Ishbosheth reigned 2 years over Israel.

There was a long going conflict between the house of Saul and the house of David. In that conflict, Joab's brother Ahasel was killed by Abner. So, Joab and Abishai his brother wanted revenge by all means. Meanwhile, Ishbosheth accused Abner of sleeping with Saul's concubine and that made Abner angry. He went to David to negotiate a deal where he would bring all Israel unto him and be their king. Joab was not there but when he heard that the king let Abner go in peace, he went and confronted the king. Later, Joab and Abishai followed Abner and killed him.

David mourned Abner's death and he distanced himself from his murder. All Israel believed that David had nothing to do with Abner's death. Threatening to ruin everything, were two miserable men who went to Ishbosheth's house and found him sleeping on his bed and killed him, cut off his head, and brought it to David. This again was a terrible miscalculation to their ruin. They thought David would be pleased, but he wasn't pleased with the fact that they killed an innocent man in his own house, upon his bed. He ordered that these murderers be killed.

## Unified Israel

When we get to the fifth chapter, the elders of Israel anointed David as king over all Israel. One cannot help but notice that David was anointed three times to be King.

- By Samuel in Bethlehem (1 Samuel 16:13)
- By the men of Judah in Hebron (2 Samuel 2:4)
- By the elders of Israel in Hebron (2 Samuel 5:3)

David took over Jerusalem and dwelt there. He increased his concubines and bore sons. He also fought and defeated the Philistines at Baal-perazim.

The next thing he did, he brought the Ark of the covenant to Jerusalem and that is when he got an idea to build God a house. God denied him the privilege of building the temple but instead promised him that his son will build it.

## David's Family Trouble

The life of David is not always perfect. He had a fair share of personal problems. He slept with Uriah's wife and when she got pregnant, David tried with no success to get Uriah to sleep with his wife and so decided to have him killed. David then took Uriah's wife, whose name was Bathsheba. The same woman is Solomon's mother.

Due to David's misjudgment and his action on Uriah's wife, his family was thrown into turmoil. Amnon David's firstborn son raped Tamar. Tamar was David's daughter from Absalom's mother. Absalom held a grudge for two years after which he killed Amnon and he then fled to Geshur. When he came back after three years, he turned Israel against his father and declared himself a king. Later he was killed.

## David's Trouble in the Land

There was a three-year famine in the land and David inquired of the LORD and it turns out, it was because of the Gibeonites which Saul had killed. Israel was not supposed to kill the Gibeonites due to the covenant they had with the elders of Israel during the days of Joshua. The elders of Israel swore in the name of the LORD that they will not kill the Gibeonites (**see Joshua 9**). Saul crossed the line and therefore retribution was required and so some of the men related to Saul were handed over to the Gibeonites to be hanged. Thus the famine ended.

Another incident is when David counted people and somehow he was not supposed to do that and it displeased the LORD. So God sent Gad the prophet to give David three choices:

- 7 years of famine
- 3 Months fleeing from enemies
- 3 days of pestilence

David chose to fall into the hand of the LORD, counting on His great mercy.

## **Conclusion**

What we can gather from the book of 2 Samuel is that it gives us the story of King David, especially after the death of Saul. We learn about his rise into power and the struggles that came with it. Moreover, David was a man who was far from being perfect. He went out of the way and sinned, and he had family problems yet he was tender-hearted and trusted in the LORD for salvation.

This is important in our lives. Though we are not perfect human beings and we are faced with a lot of troubles, we are not to lie down and wallow in our sins but we are to expose them by confessing and forsaking them, putting our trust and faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.